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E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PARM, UR, US, MPOL, MORG

SUBJECT: SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE: SOME COMMENTS

1. SUMMARY. IN AN ARTICLE IN THE DOSAAF JOURNAL "VOENNIYE ZNANIYA" OF OCTOBER 1975 THE SOVIET DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN CHARGE OF CIVIL DEFENSE, ALTUNIN, CLAIMS THAT ACCUMULATED EXPERIENCE IN CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING METHODS HAS NOW MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE TO MOVE ON TO MORE MASSIVE COMBINED EXERCISES AT THE FACTORY (OR SOVKHOZ/KILKHOZ), CITY, AND REGIONAL LEVELS. THE IMPRESSION ONE GAINS FROM READING THE ARTICLE IS THAT SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE IS AN EFFICIENTLY-FUNCTIONING EFFORT BASED ON A MASSIVE TRAINING AND INDOCTRINATION PROGRAM.

2. IN THIS REPORT WE BEGIN AN ATTEMPT TO ASSESS HOW EFFECTIVE, AND HOW MASSIVE, THIS EFFORT IS. WE DO NOT AT THIS TIME ADDRESS ALL ASPECTS OF THE SOVIET NATIONAL SURVIVAL PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, HAS AS ITS GOAL ASSURING THE CONTINUED FUNCTIONING OF SOVIET SOCIETY AS A SOCIETY THROUGH AND AFTER A NUCLEAR

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ATTACK. THIS MEANS EQUALLY HEAVY EMPHASIS ON BOTH

PROTECTION OF PEOPLE AND ON THE CONTINUATION OF PRODUCTION, WITH HARDENING OF INDUSTRIAL TARGETS AND DISPERSAL OF INDUSTRY PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE LATTER. SUCH ATTEMPTS TO STRUCTURE INDUSTRY TO WITHSTAND A NUCLEAR ATTACK ARE AT BEST DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN FROM FIRST HAND OBSERVATION. WE NEVERTHELESS INTEND TO STEP UP OUR EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD IN COMING MONTHS, AND WILL BE REPORTING ON OUR FINDINGS.

3. HOWEVER EFFECTIVE THESE OTHER MEASURES MAY BE, WE WOULD QUOTE THE MOST RECENT SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE TEXT-BOOK (1974) THAT "SUCCESSFUL ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE TASKS ASSIGNED CIVIL DEFENSE IS DETERMINED TO A LARGE MEASURE BY THE TRAINING OF COMMAND PERSONNEL AND CIVILIAN UNITS AS WELL AS THE ENTIRE CIVILIAN POPULATION FOR PROTECTION AGAINST MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS." AND IT IS IN TRAINING AND INDOCTRINATION THAT WE SEE OBVIOUS WEAKNESSES IN THE SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE EFFORT.

4. THOSE OF US WHO LIVE IN MOSCOW AND TRAVEL THROUGH MANY PARTS OF THE SOVIET UNION ARE STRUCK BY THE DISPARITY BETWEEN WHAT WE READ IN SOVIET AND WESTERN LITERATURE ON THE SUBJECT AND WHAT WE ACTUALLY SEE. THERE IS NO DETECTABLE PUBLIC INDOCTRINATION CAMPAIGN PROMOTING CIVIL DEFENSE. NEWSPAPERS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SEVERAL MORE SPECIALIZED ORGANS, SELDOM REPORT ON THE SUBJECT. RADIO AND TELEVISION PROGRAMMING DEVOTED TO THE EFFORT IS AT BEST MODEST. BOOKSTORES CARRY VERY LITTLE ON CIVIL DEFENSE. AND PUBLICLY SCHEDULED LECTURES ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN.

5. MUCH CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING, WE ASSUME, IS CARRIED ON AWAY FROM FOREIGN EYES. BUT WE SUGGEST THAT INTERNAL EVIDENCE IN SOVIET PUBLICATIONS INDICATES THAT EVEN BEYOND WHAT WE ARE ABLE TO SEE ON THE SURFACE THERE ARE LARGE PROBLEMS WHICH CAST DOUBT ON THE VALIDITY OF THE PERCEPTION OF SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE AS A WELL-DISCIPLINED EFFORT WHICH WOULD BECOME IMMEDIATELY EFFICIENT IN CASE OF WAR. END SUMMARY.

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NEW DEPARTURE IN SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE?

6. THE SOVIET UNION'S CHIEF OF CIVIL DEFENSE, COLONEL GENERAL ALTUNIN, WRITING IN VOENNIYE ZNANIYA IN OCTOBER 1975, DECLARED THAT EXPERIENCE GAINED IN RECENT YEARS IN CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING HAS NOW MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE SOVIET UNION TO MOVE ON TO "NEW, MORE MASSIVE FORMS OF PREPARATION OF PRODUCTION UNITS FOR CIVIL DEFENSE--

COMBINED PRODUCTION UNIT EXERCISES." HE EXPLAINS THAT CIVIL DEFENSE EXERCISES UP TO THIS POINT HAVE CONSISTED LARGELY OF SPECIALIZED COURSES AND SMALL-SCALE EXERCISES IN WHICH ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF THE WORKING FORCE IN ANY GIVEN PRODUCTION UNIT WOULD BE INVOLVED. NOW, HE CONTINUED, "THE ENTIRE WORK FORCE, MANAGEMENT, MIDDLE MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL, AND (THE VARIOUS CIVIL DEFENSE) SERVICES PARTICIPATE AT THE SAME TIME IN THE EXERCISES, RESOLVING PRODUCTION AND DEFENSE TASKS IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH THE CIVIL DEFENSE PLAN." ALTUNIN SAYS THAT THIS SYSTEM OF INSTRUCTION FULLY ANSWERS MODERN REQUIREMENTS" AND STATES THAT "DEMONSTRATION EXERCISES" OF THIS NATURE HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN ALL REPUBLICS, OBLASTS, KRAYS, AND RAYONS. HE CONCLUDES THAT SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE HAS THUS "CREATED THE NECESSARY BASIS TO MOVE ON TO OPERATIONAL (PLAYNVYE) COMBINED PRODUCTION UNITS EXERCISE REGULARLY AND IN ALL AREAS. THIS IS THE MAIN TASK OF THE NEW INSTRUCTION YEAR."

7. ALTUNIN'S DESCRIPTION OF THESE EXERCISES IMPLIES THAT THEY ARE A RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE. WE NOTE THAT THE ATOMIZDAT PUBLICATION "CIVIL DEFENSE - YESTERDAY AND TODAY", PUBLISHED IN AUGUST 1975, REFERS TO THESE EXERCISES AS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING ACTIVITY, AND IN ITS DESCRIPTION OF SUCH AN EXERCISE AT A KILKKOZ NEAR MOSCOW IN JANUARY 1975 GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT IT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN THE FIRST OF ITS KIND. IT NOTES THAT ALTUNIN HIMSELF ATTENDED THE EXERCISE, AS DID THE PARTY CHIEF OF MOSCOW OBLAST, INDICATING THAT IT WAS HARDLY A WORKADAY EVENT.

8. IN ANY CASE, ALTUNIN, IN THE ARTICLE REFERRED TO ABOVE, AMBITIOUSLY PRESCRIBES ONE SUCH EXERCISE FOR EACH
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PRODUCTION UNIT EVERY THREE YEARS AND SAYS THAT THE SCHEDULES BY WHICH SUCH EXERCISES ARE TO BE HELD "SHOULD BE WORKED OUT."

9. ALTUNIN ALSO DESCRIBES THE NEXT STEP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE EXERCISES--COMBINED REGIONAL (RAYON) EXERCISES. HE SAYS THAT SUCH EXERCISES HAVE ALREADY BEEN CARRIED OUT IN THE RSFSR AND IN MOLDAVIA. WE NOTE THAT THE SEPTEMBER 1975 EDITION OF VOENNIYE ZNANIYA REPORTS SUCH AN EXERCISE IN KIMOVSKIY RAYON IN THE TUL'SKAYA OBLAST. THIS EXERCISE WAS ATTENDED BY ALTUNIN'S FIRST DEPUTY TURANTAYEV; AND, ADDITIONALLY, ALTUNIN SINGLES OUT THE OBKOM OF TUL'SKAYA OBLAST, IN WHICH KIMOVSKIY IS LOCATED, FOR A SPECIAL EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION IN THE ARTICLE.

THIS HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION MAY INDICATE THAT THE EXERCISE WAS IN TURN AMONG THE FIRST OF ITS KIND.

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10. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE NEW FORMS OF CIVIL DEFENSE EXERCISES SHOWS CONTINUING SOVIET INTEREST AND ACTIVITY IN THAT FIELD. PERHAPS THE QUESTION WHICH SHOULD BE ASKED, HOWEVER, IS HOW WELL THESE IMPRESSIVE PLANS ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED. IS THE SOVIET UNION IN FACT DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE CIVIL DEFENSY SYSTEM?

REALITY OR RHETORIC?

11. FOR THOSE OF US RESIDENT IN MOSCOW WHO HAVE EXPOSURE TO EITHER SOVIET OR WESTERN LITERATURE ON SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE ACTIVITIES, THE DICHOTOMY BETWEEN WHAT WE READ AND WHAT WE SEE IS STRIKING. THE MASSIVE PUBLIC REPEAT PUBLIC EFFORT WHICH SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE ACTIVITIES ARE ALLEGED TO REPRESENT IS NOWHERE IN EVIDENCE.

12. THE SOVIET PUBLICATION "CIVIL DEFENSE," PUBLISHED IN 1974, FOR EXAMPLE, DESCRIBES IN SOME DETAIL HOW CIVIL DEFENSE INFORMATION IS TO BE DISSEMINATED.

LISTED FIRST IS "VERBAL PUBLICITY". CIVIL DEFENSE
LECTURES, ACCORDING TO THIS PUBLICATION, ARE ORGANIZED
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AT PRACTICALLY EVERY PUBLIC MEETING PLACE, INDOORS OR
OUTDOORS, IN THE SOVIET UNION. WE SEE NO EVIDENCE THAT
THIS IS TRUE. WE NOTE THAT THE LAST LECTURE ON THAT
SUBJECT WHICH WAS ACTUALLY ATTENDED BY AN EMBASSY
OFFICER TOOK PLACE IN 1972, WHEN THE EMBOFF STUMBLED
UPON A CIVIL DEFENSE LECTURE AT HIS NEIGHBORHOOD ZHEHK
(REPORTED IN A-785, NOV 22, 1975). A POLL OF OTHER
OFFICERS PRESENTLY IN MOSCOW REVEALS THAT THEY HAVE
NEVER, OR AT BEST RARELY, SEEN ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR CIVIL
DEFENSE LECTURES OTHER THAN THOSE HELD BY MOSCOW'S
VERY ACTIVE ZNANIYE SOCIETY. THIS NATIONAL ORGANIZATION,
ACCORDING TO SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE PUBLICATIONS, HAS
BEEN TASKED WITH PLAYING A VERY LARGE ROLE IN DISSEMI-
NATING CIVIL DEFENSE INFORMATION. BUT EVEN IT SELDOM
SCHEDULES CIVIL DEFENSE LECTURES, AND THE EMBASSY'S
COLLECTIVE MEMORY CANNOT RECALL HAVING SEEN A NOTICE
OF ONE SINCE LAST SUMMER.

13. A FURTHER MEANS BY WHICH CIVIL DEFENSE INFORMATION
IS DISSEMINATED, ACCORDING TO CIVIL DEFENSE PUBLICATIONS,
IS THROUGH NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, AND "MASS POPULAR
LITERATURE." THE NATION'S MAJOR NEWSPAPERS VERY SELDOM
PUBLISH ARTICLES ON CIVIL DEFENSE. THE EXCEPTIONS TO
THIS IS OF COURSE KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S
ORGAN, WHICH DOES CARRY SUCH ARTICLES AT A RATE OF ABOUT
ONE OR AT MOST TWO A MONTH. SOVIETSKIY PATRIOT, THE
DOSAAF ORGAN, IS PUBLISHED ONLY TWICE WEEKLY, BUT ALMOST
ALWAYS CARRIES CIVIL DEFENSE ARTICLES, AND IS PERHAPS THE
MAIN PURVEYOR OF THAT TYPE OF INFORMATION. WITH THE
EXCEPTION OF THE MONTHLY VOENNIYE ZNANIYA (CIRCULATION
300,000), SOVIET MAGAZINES PROVIDE LITTLE IF ANY COVERAGE
ON CIVIL DEFENSE TOPICS. "MASS POPULAR LITERATURE" CONSISTS
LARGELY OF BRIEF BROCHURES ON CIVIL DEFENSE WHICH DO APPEAR
IN BOOK, SHOPS, BUT ONLY SPORADICALLY.

14. ON MARCH 4 AN EMBOFF LOOKED INTO DOM KNIGI, MOSCOW'S
LARGEST BOOK STORE, AND ONE WHICH IN THE OPINION OF OUR
PUBLICATIONS PROCUREMENT OFFICE PROBABLY CARRIES THE LARGEST
GENERAL SELECTION OF BOOKS AVAILABLE ANYWHERE IN THE
SOVIET UNION. FINDING NO PUBLICATIONS ON CIVIL DEFENSE
ON DISPLAY, THE REPORTING OFFICER INQUIRED IF ANY WERE
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AVAILABLE. THE CLERK RUMMAGED AROUND UNDER THE COUNTER FOR A FEW MINUTES AND CAME UP WITH TWO SOFT-BACKED ATOMIZDAT PUBLICATIONS: "CIVIL DEFENSE YESTERDAY AND TODAY." PUBLISHED IN 1975; AND "CIVIL DEFENSE OF AN INDUSTRIAL PLANT," PUBLISHED IN 1974. THE CLERK SAID SHE HAD ONLY A FEW COPIES OF EACH. ASKED IF SHE HAD ANY TEXTBOOKS ON CIVIL DEFENSE, SHE SAID THAT "THEY ARE SELDOM AVAILABLE. PERHAPS YOU CAN FIND THEM IN VOENKNIGA (THE MILITARY BOOK STORE). BUT WE SELDOM SEE THEM HERE." WE ASSUME THAT THESE TEXTS ARE AVAILABLE, AND PERHAPS ARE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS--THOUGH OUR BOOK STORE CLERK DID NOT SEEM TO KNOW WHICH CHANNELS THESE MIGHT BE. WE CAN SAY, HOWEVER, THAT CIVIL DEFENSE PUBLICATIONS ARE NOT THE SUBJECT OF A MAJOR PROMOTION CAMPAIGN IN SOVIET BOOK STORES, A STATEMENT BASED NOT ONLY ON THE ONE VISIT DESCRIBED ABOVE BUT ON LITERALLY HUNDRED OF VISITS MADE EVERY YEAR TO BOOK STORES ALL OVER THE SOVIET UNION BY OUR PUBLICATIONS PROCUREMENT OFFICERS.

15. TELEVISION AND RADIO ARE ALSO SUPPOSED TO GIVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO CIVIL DEFENSE, ACCORDING TO CIVIL DEFENSE PUBLICATIONS. THE EMBASSY'S COLLECTIVE MEMORY DOES NOT RECALL HAVING SEEN A TELEVISION PROGRAM ON CIVIL DEFENSE WITHIN RECENT TIMES; BUT TO CROSS CHECK, WE LOOKED VERY CAREFULLY THROUGH MOSCOW TELEVISION SCHEDULES FOR A RANDOMLY-CHOSEN SIX MONTH PERIOD (JANUARY THROUGH JUNE OF 1975). WE FOUND NOT ONE PROGRAM READILY IDENTIFIABLE AS CIVIL DEFENSE RELATED. A CHECK OF RADIO BROADCASTS FROM MOSCOW STATIONS FOR THE SAME PERIOD PRODUCED THE SAME RESULT. IT IS POSSIBLE, PERHAPS EVEN LIKELY, THAT SMALL SPOT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EXHORTATIONS CREEP INTO BROADCASTS WITHOUT BEING REFLECTED IN PRINTED PROGRAMS; BUT EVEN ASSUMING THAT IS SO, BROADCAST COVERAGE OF THE SUBJECT WOULD BE AT BEST SCANTY. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, WE FIND THE ASSERTION MADE IN THE PUBLICATION "CIVIL DEFENSE YESTERDAY AND TODAY" THAT UKRAINIAN TELEVISION IN 1973 BROADCAST 460 PROGRAMS ON CIVIL DEFENSE DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE. FBIS CAN PERHAPS FURNISH FURTHER STATISTICS ON THIS.

16. CIVIL DEFENSE IS SELDOM TREATED AS A MAJOR ISSUE
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IN MAJOR MILITARY ARTICLES. SOVIET CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF KULIKOV IN HIS PRE-PARTY CONGRESS ARTICLE IN KRASNAYA ZVEZDA FEBRUARY 22, FOR EXAMPLE, DISCUSSES THE PVO, AIR FORCE, NAVY, ROCKET FORCES, AND EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION; BUT HE SAYS NOT A SINGLE WORD ABOUT CIVIL DEFENSE. ALTHOUGH THE AUTHOR OF AN ARTICLE

IS AIR FORCE MAGAZINE IN OCTOBER OF 1975 HAS SAID THAT "OFFICIAL SOVIET SOURCES SINCE THEN (I.E., SOON AFTER THE SIGNING OF SALT 1) HAVE LISTED CIVIL DEFENSE TROOPS ON A PAR WITH THE OTHER FIVE SOVIET SERVICES", WE CANNOT PRODUCE A SINGLE MAJOR SPEECH OR ARTICLE IN WHICH THE CIVIL DEFENSE FORCES RECEIVE EVEN APPROXIMATING THAT OF THE OTHER MILITARY BRANCHES.

MUCH RHETORIC, BUT SOME REALITY

17. WE REALIZE THAT MOST CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING IS GIVEN AT THE FACTORY OR IN SCHOOLS, WELL OUT OF SIGHT OF FOREIGN OBSERVERS. AND ALTUNIN IN HIS ARTICLE DESCRIBED ABOVE EMPHASIZES ALSO THAT CIVIL DEFENSE "LEADERSHIP TEAMS" CARRY THE BRUNT OF THE TRAINING LOAD, RATHER THAN THE GENERAL POPULACE, A POINT REPEATED IN OTHER SOVIET WRITINGS ON CIVIL DEFENSE. THUS, THE ABSENCE OF OPEN EVIDENCE THAT CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING IS GOING ON CLEARLY DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT IT IS ENTIRELY ABSENT.

18. THESE SAME PUBLICATIONS ALSO MAKE THE POINT, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN THOUGH SELECT CADRES SHOULD RECEIVE ADDITIONAL TRAINING, WITHOUT MASTERY OF CIVIL DEFENSE ACTIVITIES BY THE MASSES THE PROGRAM WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MEET THE GOALS SET BEFORE IT.

19. EVEN THE SOVIET PUBLICATION ON CIVIL DEFENSE FINDS A GREAT DEAL WRONG WITH THE CIVIL DEFENSE PROGRAM. ALTUNIN WRITES THAT THE TRAINING OF LEADERSHIP TEAMS TO A LARGE DEGREE WILL DETERMINE HOW SUCCESSFUL THE MASSIVE COMBINED EXERCISES HE ADVOCATES WILL BE. BUT MOSCOW CITY CIVIL DEFENSE CHIEF KUZOVATKIN, WRITING IN "VOENNIYE ZNANIYA" IN JANUARY 1976, SAYS THAT "ONE CAN SAY WITHOUT EXAGGERATION THAT WITHOUT A FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF THE WORK IN THESE COURSES,
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AND THAT MEANS IN THE PREPARATION OF ALL OF OUR LEADERSHIP STAFFS, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO SOLVE THE MAIN TASKS OF CD--TO BEGIN OPERATIONAL (PLANOVYE) PRODUCTION UNIT EXERCISES EVERYWHERE ON A HIGH METHODOLOGICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL LEVEL." AND A LIEUTENANT GENERAL WRITING IN VOENNIYE ZNANIYA IN DECEMBER 1975 SAYS THT "COURSES FOR LEADERSHIP TEAMS, THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ENTIRE TEACHING PROCESS IN THE CIVIL DEFENSE SYSTEM DO NOT FULLY ANSWER CONTEMPORARY NEEDS. THE LEVEL OF TEACHING METHODOLOGY IS UNSATISFACTORY, AND SHOWS POOR CONTACT WITH THE LIFE OF THE ENTERPRISES WHERE THE BASIC CIVIL DEFENSE MEASURES ARE TO BE PRACTICALLY APPLIED."

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20. AND PROBLEMS ARE CLEARLY NOT CONFINED TO LEADERSHIP TRAINING. THE CHIEF OF UKRAINIAN CIVIL DEFENSE ON JANUARY 31, 1975 ADMITTED IN A KIEV BROADCAST THAT "THE TRAINING OF THE NON-WORKING POPULATION IN THE WOMEN'S COMMITTEES AND HOUSING ADMINISTRATION IS STILL INADEQUATE AND NOT EFFECTIVE. THERE ARE MANY COUNTRY AREAS WHERE CIVIL DEFENSE REMAINS AT A LOW LEVEL."

21. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DOSAAF CENTRAL PROPAGANDA EFFORT WRITING IN VOENNIYE ZNANIYA IN DECEMBER 1975 CRITICIZES THE UNDER-UTILIZATION OF MASS MEDIA BY LOCAL DOSAAF ORGANIZATIONS AND SAYS THAT PRINTED INFORMATION AVAILABLE DOES NOT "ALWAYS" GET TO LOCAL LEVEL USERS AND THAT FILMS SUPPLIED ARE OFTEN NOW SHOWN. A WORKER TASKED WITH CIVIL DEFENSE DUTIES WRITES IN VOENNIYE ZNANIYA THAT "WE FEEL EFFECTS OF INSUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF NECESSARY LITERATURE. THE TEXT 'LECTURES ON CIVIL DEFENSE'S' PUBLISHED BY THE SCIENTIFIC-METHODOLOGICAL CENTER OF CIVIL DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS IN 1969 DISCUSSES SIX SUBJECTS, AND PORTIONS OF THE DISCUSSION BECAME OBSOLETE LONG AGO. IN OUR REPUBLIC IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BUY PLACARDS ON THE 20-HOUR PROGRAM. NOR ARE THERE
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FOR SALE ANY PLACARDS FOR SETTING UP CORNERS AND STANDS ON CD. MOREOVER, IN MOVIE LIBRARIES IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND CD MOVIES IN THE 16 MM SIZE, AND THE OLD FILMS ARE IN POOR CONDITION." HE ASSERTS THAT HIS COLLEAGUES IN CD WORK ARE "HIGHLY MOTIVATED", BUT COMPLAINS THAT THEY "NEED ACTIVE ASSISTANCE FROM HIGHER LEVEL CD STAFFS, ESPECIALLY IN THE PROVISION OF TEACHING AND PROPAGANDA MATERIALS."

22. DESCRIPTIONS OF THE COMBINED REGIONAL AND URBAN EXERCISES (LATTER REPORTED IN KRASNAYA ZVEZDA JAN 21, 1976) WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE SO FAR SHOW CLEARLY THAT BEFORE THEY CAN BE CARRIED OUT THE POPULACE MUST BE GIVEN VIRTURALLY A COMPLETE COURSE IN CIVIL DEFENSE. THE REPORT ON THE COMBINED RAYON EXERCISE IN KIMOVSK IN VOENNIYE ZNANIYA IN SEPTEMBER 1975 SAID THAT SEVERAL MONTHS OF LEAD-IN TIME WERE NECESSARY TO PREPARE FOR THE EXERCISE. EIGHT HUNDRED PEOPLE WERE GIVEN LEADER-SHIP TEAM TRAINING COURSE, CIVIL DEFENSE PLANS HAD TO BE "CORRECTEE," AND THE MANDATORY 20-HOUR CIVIL DEFENSE PROGRAM FOR THE POPULACE "HAD TO BE FINISHED." RADIO-ACTIVITY SHELTERS HAD TO BE BUILT, AND THE DOORS AND WINDOWS OF RESIDENTIAL HOUSING AND BARNs -- AND WELLS-HERMETICALLY SEALED. DURING THE MONTH BEFORE THE EXERCISE, AN ADDITIONAL 120 LECTURES AND REPORTS WERE GIVEN.

23. SIMILARLY, DESCRIPTIONS OF EVEN THE MUCH SMALLER COMBINED PRODUCTION UNIT EXERCISES IN VOENNIYE ZNANIYA STRESS THE ADVANCE PREPARATION WHICH MUST BE UNDERTAKEN, INCLUDING MEASURES AS BASIC AS HAVING PERSONNEL SEW TOGETHER THEIR OWN PROTECTIVE MASKS.

24. ALL OF THESE COMBINED EXERCISES ARE STILL CLEARLY LABELED "DEMONSTRATIVE." AS ALTUNIN NOTES, THE TASK OF MOVING FROM THESE DEMONSTRATION EXERCISES TO OPERATIONAL EXERCISES HAS YET TO BE MASTERED, AND, JUDGING FROM MOST DESCRIPTIONS GIVEN, EVEN ARRANGING DEMONSTRATION EXERCISES STILL OVERTAXES LOCAL CD ORGANIZATIONS. THE STEP FROM DEMONSTRATION EXERCISES IN KIMOVSK (POPULATION 30,000) TO OPERATIONAL EXERCISES IN MOSCOW

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IS A VERY LONG ONE INDEED.

A FUNCTIONING SYSTEM: BUT EFFECTIVE?

25. FOR ALL OF ITS PROBLEMS, AND OUTRIGHT FAILURES, THE SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE EFFORT IS IMPRESSIVE COMPARED TO THAT OF MOST OTHER NATIONS-- ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE WEST. THE PROGRAM IS PROBABLY ABLE TO CAPITALIZE ON STILL RELATIVELY FRESH MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR 11, ON TRADITIONAL RUSSIAN XENOPHOBIA, AND ON EXAGGERATED SOVIET PATRIOTISM TO INSTILL SOME KNOWLEDGE OF CIVIL DEFENSE IN THE POPULACE. IF ONE IS TO BELIEVE ANYTHING AT ALL ON THE SUBJECT IN SOVIET PUBLICATIONS, CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES ARE DEVOTED TO CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING, AND WE ASSUME THAT THESE EFFORTS DO HAVE SOME EFFECT.

26. IT IS NOT EVIDENT TO US THAT THESE EFFORTS HAVE AS YET LED TO THE CREATION OF A WELL-DISCIPLINED WELL-TRAINED CIVIL DEFENSE SYSTEM WHICH WOULD MAKE A SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE NATION'S SURVIVABILITY DURING A NUCLEAR WAR. THE MASSIVE CIVIL DEFENSE PROPAGANDA EFFORTS DESCRIBED IN SOVIET PUBLICATIONS DO NOT EXIST IN ANY DISCERNABLE FORM. IT IS MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO JUDGE HOW EFFECTIVE THE "MANDATORY" 20-HOUR TRAINING PROGRAMS ARE IN FACTORIES AND ON KOLKHOZES AND SOVKHOZES, BUT WITHOUT SUPPORTING PRESSURE FROM A MASS PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN WE DOUBT THAT EVEN A COUNTRY WHICH LOST TWENTY MILLION PEOPLE IN A WAR 30 YEARS AGO CAN RIVET ITS ATTENTION TO, AND PREPARE ITSELF FOR, ANY CIVIL DEFENSE LIKELY TO MAKE A MAJOR DIFFERENCE IN WARTIME CONDITIONS. OVER HALF OF TODAY'S SOVIET POPULATION HAS BEEN BORN SINCE WORLD WAR 11, AND LACKS THE FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE WITH WAR WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN A POWERFUL INCENTIVE TO CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING 20 YEARS AGO.

27. ALTUNIN'S ARTICLE ABOVE DESCRIBES ERRORS WHICH SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO CREEP INTO CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING, AND DECRIES AS CHIEF AMONG THEM GIVING PRIORITY TO "ECONOMI FACTORS"--I.E., ALLOWING A FACTORY MANAGER TO REDUCE TIME NECESSARY FOR CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING IN ORDER TO FULFILL HIS PRODUCTION PLAN. HOWEVER
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WE NOTE THAT AN EDITORIAL IN VOENNIYE ZNANIYA IN JANUARY 1976 ALREADY SHOWS SIGNS OF GIVING IN TO "ECONOMIC FACTORS" BY CONTENDING THAT DURING COMBINED PRODUCTION UNIT EXERCISES ONLY THE LEADERSHIP TEAM FUNCTIONS THROUGHOUT THE EXERCISE, WITH THE BULK OF THE WORKERS DRAWN INTO THE EXERCISE "FROM TIME TO TIME", THUS ALLOWING FULL PRODUCTION TO BE RETAINED. THIS CLEARLY DOES NOT JIBE WITH ALTUNIN'S ENTHUSIASTIC DESCRIPTION OF SUCH EXERCISES AS INVOLVING VIRTUALLY ALL OF A

PLANT'S PERSONNEL SIMULTANEOUSLY. EVEN IN A STATE
MONOPOLY SYSTEM THE COST FACTOR IN CIVIL DEFENSE
APPARENTLY CANNOT BE IGNORED.

PROTECTING PEOPLE -- OR INDUSTRY?

28. FINALLY, A BRIEF WORD ON WHAT WE SEE AS THE AIM
OF SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE--THOUGH THIS IS AN ASPECT WE
WILL ATTEMPT TO TREAT IN MORE DETAIL IN FUTURE REPORTS.
THE MAIN GOAL OF SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE SEEMS QUITE
SIMPLE TO BE INSURING THE CONTINUED FUNCTIONING OF
THE SOCIETY AS A SOCIETY THROUGH AND AFTER A NUCLEAR
ATTACK. THIS MEANS EQUALLY HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE PRO-
TECTION OF PEOPLE AND ON THE CONTINUATION OF PRODUCTION.
THE KEY ROLE PLAYED IN SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE EFFORTS BY
THE NEWLY DEVELOPED COMBINED PRODUCTION UNIT EXERCISES
IS AMPLE EVIDENCE OF WHERE SOVIET PRIORITIES LIE.
THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN LIVES IS NOT NEGLECTED,
HOWEVER, EVEN DURING THIS PERIOD OF PREOCCUPATION
WITH THE NEW PRODUCTION UNIT EXERCISES. THE LARGE
SUMMER EXERCISES FOR YOUNG TEENAGERS AND TEENAGERS
(ZARNITZA AND ORLYONOK) STRESS PERSONAL DEFENSE AND
THE USE OF PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND MEDICINES. IT
MAY BE THAT THE SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE SYSTEM NOW SEES
SCHOOL AND TEENAGE TRAINING AS THE TIME FOR IMPARTING
BASIC KNOWLEDGE ON PERSONAL DEFENSE MEASURES, AND WILL
STRESS MAINTENANCE OF PRODUCTION IN ITS EXERCISES AND
TRAINING PROGRAMS WITH ADULTS.

29 COORDINATED WITH DAO.

STOESSEL
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PAGE 05 MOSCOW 03566 03 OF 03 091852Z

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL TRAINING, CIVIL DEFENSE, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, EMERGENCY PLANNING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW03566
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760089-0309
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760380/aaaacsrp.tel
Line Count: 585
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 11
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <27 JUL 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE: SOME COMMENTS
TAGS: PARM, MPOL, MORG, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006